

# The Seibert Settler

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## Three Perish as 11-Inch Rain Breaks Century Record

### "Service" Means Much to Everyone Following Catastrophe Last Weekend

Just how much the word "Service" can mean was accentuated following the disaster. Every possible succor was rendered those marooned by the flood. The "milk of human kindness" flowed freely. Especially commendable was the efforts of those whose duties affect the public, to render service in the face of tremendous difficulties.

Working day and night, Charles Walker, in charge of state highway equipment, inspection and maintenance in this sector, maintained a semblance of order in his department throughout. By early Saturday he had established highway communication west and that evening trucks were able to come through. Monday morning he was able to permit the huge fleet of gasoline and merchandise trucks that had gathered here at the road-end to proceed. With three Coleman trucks and two caterpillars he and his crew were able to pull even the heaviest vehicles over the bad spots. Mr. Walker does not venture a guess as to the probable time when the highway will be repaired but the best guesses seem to be three to five weeks. The old highway will be put to use pending repair of the new which will likely be about August 1.

At the depot, E. H. Hess, agent, working what amounted to a 24-hour shift, made possible communication with the outside world. The wire crew of the Rock Island had damage repaired within seven hours after the flood subsided. Telephone communication was possible to most points by Friday morning at 8 to Flagler, via a long route through Kansas and to Denver by 2 p. m. Saturday. Working hours meant nothing to Mrs. Helen Rasmussen and her assistants in their effort to make it possible for persons to communicate with their anxious relatives and friends on "the outside" as well as business messages. This was especially valuable as mail communication was entirely cut off.

Saturday evening the Newton

truck came through with a light load. The Denver daily papers came in early Sunday by special trucks. The trip was made in six hours.

#### Perrine-Murphy

Ruby Letitia Ellen Perrine and Delores Murphy were wed in Denver Sunday morning June 2, at 8:30 as an air mail letter to her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Perrine, testifies. The bride was the eldest daughter of the family and is attending business college in Denver, which she will finish. She was valedictorian of the 1924 class of Seibert high school and one of our most talented young ladies. Delores is the eldest son of Ellis Murphy of the Eastonville country and formerly of Rock Cliff vicinity and a very good farmer though now employed on a road construction job. The Settler joins the community in wishing these fine young people happiness.

### Burl Miller Dies of Accident Hurts

Run over Monday morning by a tractor on his farm which was being run by his brother Ord, Burl Miller died shortly after arriving in Denver where he was sent for medical aid. The funeral was held at Shiloh church Thursday morning. Just how the accident occurred is unknown for Ord Miller did not know his brother was around until he saw him lying under the wheels of the tractor. He was rushed to Flagler where Dr. Neff gave him medical care and ordered him shipped to Denver.

The calf of Mr. Miller's leg was badly gouged by a tractor lug and his entire right side bruised and battered by the wheel. His death is thought to have been caused by the concussion of the brain and skull fracture.

N. A. Cloutier is here from Burlington, acting as relief operator at the Rock Island depot.

#### Woltkamp-Zimmerscheid

One of Seibert country's most popular young couple were married in Goodland June 4. Irene Woltkamp and Joe Zimmerscheid. The young folk are now established on the Neil Smith ranch south of Seibert where they will farm and raise stock. The groom is an upstanding young man who came to Colorado three years ago from Broken Bow, Nebr., from which place he was a high school graduate. Farmers will welcome this serious-minded newcomer as a neighbor. The charming June bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Woltkamp of north east of town and is noted for her talents, chief being her beautiful singing voice. She would have been a senior at Seibert high next year, having attended Seibert school for several years. An interesting fact is that the brother of Joe, Paul Zimmerscheid and his sister Ida, have also been recently married. The Settler and Directory force join the community in wishing these young folk greatest happiness.

### PLEA FOR MAIL GETS VERY PROMPT RESULTS

Without mail for several days until Wednesday noon, Seibert business firms that find mail service of vital importance in their business went into action and got immediate results.

A wire from Seibert read as follows:

Mr. Musgrave,  
Chief clerk railway mail service,  
Omaha, Nebraska

"No mail since May 30. Need urgent. Business paralyzed. Highways open Colorado Springs, Denver, Colby, Kans. Can you not route us mail by plane, work train or other carrier?"

"SIGNED:  
"National Directory Co.,  
"Seibert Settler,  
"Seibert Equity Exchange Assn.,  
"Zella M. Hutchens, postmaster,  
"E. H. Hess, mayor,  
"V. S. FitzPatrick."

This message was transmitted Tuesday. At 8:30 Wednesday morning a reply was received, addressed to the signers of the request through Bonny I. Gaunt, head of the National Directory Co. It read:

"Answering your wire. Temporary service authorized Colorado Springs to Stratton.

"MUSGRAVE,  
"Chief mail clerk."

Mail arrived by special truck in charge of a special deputy from Limon shortly after noon Wednesday. He went through to Burlington and brought more mail on his return.

Seibert is appreciative of the quick action taken by Mr. Musgrave on receipt of the telegram.

Postmaster Zella Hutchens informs the Settler that from 9 Tuesday evening until 10 Wednesday morning there were eleven mail deliveries although none official.

#### Born

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boren are oblivious to anything but joy, the occasion being the arrival Monday at 11 of an eight-pound son. The young man has been named Charles H. Jr. The father is one of the county's best young farmers, on his place northeast of Seibert. Both he and the mother, formerly Rodella Hase, are graduates of the Seibert high school.

#### DISTRICT ROADS NEED MONTHS FOR NECESSARY REPAIRS

The road damage resulting from the storm in this commissioner's district alone is almost incomputable and unbelievable. On State highway 59 from Cope to Kit Carson the bridges are all out or nearly so in this county. The Bell Creek bridge stood with damage to the approach but traffic can pass. The Rasmussen bridge by the Ernest Bancroft place built just two years ago at a big expense to the county, is entirely washed away and much of the property of Mr. Bancroft thereby damaged. The bridge across Buffalo by the Florry Jones farm stood and the creek changed its course there although spreading out on a wide swath at the road. The fine big river bridge stood with damage to the north approach and the loss of the sheet piling there. The south sunk and damaged some. At Sand creek just north of the Clarence Bell farm home, four years ago was built a big new pile bridge which is completely effaced. The 150-foot slab south of the Rose school is gone. The Minter slab built at a cost of \$1500 to the county not many years ago, is either gone or deeply buried and damaged. The Jim Frost slab, the ones by George Woltkamp, Chris Peterson Sr., C. C. Gates and C. L. Lothian are all gone. These are mail routes which will necessitate immediate repair. The bridge five miles south by the N. Amiller place, is washed but passable. V. L. Simpson, road boss in this district, says that it will take four carloads of cement to repair the most necessary repair in this commissioner's district alone. There are four minor bridges out in the Flagler part of the district. A total damage of \$50,000 at least was done in this commissioner's district, says Mr. Simpson. "And that is modest for our road damage." He was very lucky to have carload of bridge plank on hand or he couldn't have repaired even temporarily the Re-

(Continued on page four)

### Flood Unearths Mammoth Bones

The flood, worst in at least fifty years and perhaps a thousand, brought to light a relic of the time when this country lay thousands of feet below the sea. A leg bone of a huge mammal was found in the river north of the Frank W. Jones farm by Ross Oliver. The fragment, evidently the femur of an herbivorous quadruped, weighs 58 pounds, is 41 inches in length and 36 inches in circumference at the joint.

The conjecture of local amateur geologists is that this animal must have been mired along the seacoast in prehistoric times. The bones, partly petrified, have lain there for perhaps millions of years. In the great subsidence which sank this portion of the continent at least 4,000 feet below the sea, the bones were buried by washing sands of ocean. Mute testimony to the fact that this has been sea bed is found in the vast quantities of sea-gravel and sand brought to light by the flood.

As soon as communication is opened, the curator of the state museum will be contacted in an effort to ascertain the exact character of this monster. There is little hope of locating the rest of the skeleton, as it may have been scattered over a wide area of sea bed.

### Farmers' Homes, Land, Machinery, Cattle Destroyed

#### Communication Severed

#### THE CASUALTIES:

Clarence L. Lothian, age 60  
Wayne Gesner, age 27.  
Mrs. Wayne Gesner, age 27

Terrific storm descended on the plains Thursday night at 8:10 and death rode with the tempest. Trapped by a wall of water in their Sand Creek farm home one and one-half miles from Seibert, Clarence L. Lothian 60, Wayne Gesner, twenty-seven, and Mrs. Gesner, twenty-seven, were swept away. Sunday night, following unceasing search, the body of Gesner was found, stranded on a sand drift in midstream, 35 miles east of Seibert by stream.

By singular good fortune, Mrs. Lothian had left only the day before for a visit at Vernon, Kans. When appraised of the tragedy, she left at once for Seibert, but flooded rivers and washed-out highways prevented her reaching here until Tuesday.

The body of Wayne Gesner was found fully clothed and with jacket and one overshoe on, half-buried in the sand. A gash on the forehead might have been inflicted before death.

The Ford car owned by Gesner, was found a short distance down stream. A strand of barbed wire, evidently hastily twisted around its front axle might indicate that the car had been anchored to the house in the belief that the latter would withstand the flood.

The deluge, varying from 8 to 11 inches, which fell within four hours caused damage in this county estimated at \$250,000.00 to buildings, growing crops, fences, livestock, railroad and highway bridges and fills, machinery and automobiles, while the damage to farm land is inestimable. The valleys of the Republican, Sand Creek, Arickaree and every tributary are devastated. To name those who suffered loss along the watercourses would be to catalog every dweller in the lowlands.

Beginning on the headwaters of the streams, dams, bridges and fills went out in succession, each break increasing the volume and fury of the onrushing wall of water. Sand Creek, ordinarily a dry valley, was swollen to a raging river at places a mile wide and as much as 18 feet deep in the channel. The new highway bridge and fill, the old highway bridge, the railroad bridges over the creek and the Republican, were swept away, in some cases even the massive concrete abutments being taken. Every vestige of topsoil of the valley farms was washed away. Productive fields were buried under sand that varies in depth from two to eight feet. New channels innumerable were cut. The creek bed is dotted with parts of buildings, machinery and the bodies of dead animals.

Thursday's storm and flood was the worst and only one of its kind in the memory of any resident. James B. McCombs, who has known this territory intimately for the past 49 years, states that nothing even approaching it has ever occurred in his time. High water marks go to show that the water in Sand Creek must have been at least seven feet higher than any previous traceable mark.



Victims of Eastern Colorado's greatest disaster. Left top, Wayne Gesner, whose body, fully clothed, was found after three days 35 miles down stream. Top right, Mrs. Gesner. Bottom, Clarence Lothian, in whose home the three perished.

